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Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
First session
New York, 31 October and 3 November 2008

Report of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Summary

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/106 of 13 December 2006, and entered into force on 3 May 2008. In accordance with article 40 of the Convention, the first session of the Conference of States Parties was convened in 2008. During its first meeting, on 31 October, the Conference elected the five members of its bureau and adopted its rules of procedure. An interactive panel entitled "The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a human rights instrument and a tool for achieving the Millennium Development Goals" was also held. During its second meeting, on 3 November, the Conference elected, in accordance with article 34 of the Convention, the 12 members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Conference agreed to hold its second session in 2009.

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1. The first session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held on 31 October and 3 November 2008. The first meeting was called to order on 31 October by the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who acted as the temporary Chairperson.

2. The Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a statement, followed by a video message from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

3. Following the message of the High Commissioner, Ambassador Claude Heller (Mexico) was elected President of the Conference. Jordan, New Zealand, Hungary, and South Africa were elected Vice-Presidents. The provisional agenda (CRPD/CSP/2008/2) and the provisional rules of procedure (CRPD/CSP/2008/3) were adopted.

4. After the adoption of the rules of procedure, the President noted that in connection with rule 25 (c), on accreditation of non-governmental organizations, it was the understanding of the Conference that requests for accreditation by non-governmental organizations should be circulated four weeks prior to each session of the Conference of the States Parties, following a no objection procedure.

5. In accordance with article 40 of the Convention, an interactive panel discussion on "The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a human rights instrument and a tool for achieving the Millennium Development Goals" was held. The presentations of the panellists were followed by a session of questions and answers.[1]

6. The second meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was called to order on 3 November 2008.

7. In accordance with article 34, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5, of the Convention, the States Parties elected by secret ballot 12 members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Amna Ali Al Suweidi (Qatar), Mohammed Al-Tarawneh (Jordan), Lotfi Ben Lallahom (Tunisia), Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri (Bangladesh), María Soledad Cisternas Reyes (Chile), György Könczei (Hungary), Edah Wangechi Maina (Kenya), Ronald McCallum (Australia), Ana Peláez Narváez (Spain), Germán Xavier Torres Correa (Ecuador), Cveto Uršič (Slovenia) and Jia Yang (China). The list of candidates and their curricula vitae are contained in documents CRPD/CSP/2008/1 and Add.1.

8. In accordance with article 34, paragraph 7, of the Convention the following six experts were drawn by lot to serve a term of two years from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2010: Lotfi Ben Lallahom (Tunisia); György Könczei (Hungary); Edah Wangechi Maina (Kenya); Ronald McCallum (Australia); Germán Xavier Torres Correa (Ecuador); and Cveto Uršič (Slovenia). The other six experts will serve a term of four years from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2012.

9. The Conference agreed to hold its second session in 2009.

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[1] Representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Guinea, Hungary, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Thailand and Yemen, and, on behalf of non-governmental organizations, the International Disability Alliance-Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Forum participated in the session of questions and answers.